

Draft

FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL
Monthly Meeting
January 8, 2009

Date: 1/8/2009

Place: Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired

Time: 10:05 am-12:06 pm

Facilitator: Karen Zrenda

Recorder: Chris Sloss (Respectfully submitted Saturday 1/10/09)

Attendees: *Voting members* –Karen Zrenda (Parent), Terry Cote (Department of Developmental Services), Ann Gionet (Department of Public Health), Joan Law (Parent), Mike Selvaggi (Parent), Angela Spino (Parent), Kathleen Bradley(Department of Children and Families), Merva Jackson (Parent), Colleen Hayles (State Department of Education), Sylvia Gafford- Alexander (Department of Social Services), Laura Knapp (Parent), Robyn Trowbridge (Parent)

Guests - Tesha Imperati, April Dipolina, Eveleen McDonald (Office of Protection and Advocacy), Molly Cole, Faith Voswinkel (Office of the Child Advocate), Tom Brooks (Commission on Children), Deborah Pagano (State Interagency Coordinating Council), Liza LeGrier, Hal Gibber, Joy Liebeskind, Brita Darany von Regensburg (Via conference call) and Vita Wayman. ***Staff*** - Chris Sloss

Welcome and Introductions - Meeting was brought to order by Karen Zrenda at 10:05 and introductions were made. A quorum of voting members is present.

Acceptance of December Minutes - The following requests were made.

- Add state agency names to the minutes – Chris will add
- Correction to spelling of name on page 2. “C”hamrad not an “s”. – Chris will make correction
- Request for signature & date of submission on minutes
- In response to a note about specific wording that was not included in the December minutes, it was noted that minutes are a record of the votes and summary of the proceedings.

Motion to accept the minutes by Kathy Bradley. Seconded by Ann Gionet (11) members in favor and (1) against. Motion passed.

Taping meetings - April - As requested last month we were asked to please notify members and guests at the beginning of all meetings if it will be taped. Discussion as to whether or not to tape meetings. Members are comfortable with recording minutes. Chris Sloss & Mike Selvaggi will record this meeting.

Nominating Committee: Karen

Need nominating committee (by co-chairs) for election of officers. Need to post 30 days before next meeting & then we can vote. Would need 2 parents & an agency representative to be on this nominating committee – responsibility would be to put together this slate and give to Karen and Terry to post.

Nominating committee will be Karen H (parent), Merva (parent) & Ann G (as agency rep.)

Took nominations of officers from the floor:

- Laura nominated Joan Law (parent) for co-chair position.
- Kathleen nominated Merva (parent) for co-chair position Joan Law nominated Karen H as co-chair (parent)
- Terry nominated Laura Knapp (Parent) to continue as a co-chair unless precluded by the by-laws
- Laura & Joan Law commented they both have reservations about being nominated
- Joan Law withdrew her nomination.

Discussion ensued regarding responsibilities of the council, what we wish to work on in these critical times “to ensure families have access to appropriate supports in managing their children with special health care needs”.

Kathleen moved that we establish an information & operations committee charged with developing the protocol for minutes format, access to public information and records, other public agency responsibilities, and access to agency information as requested. Seconded by Robyn. Motion passed unanimously.

The council will then vote on the recommendations of the committee.

Members of this committee will be: Molly, Kathleen, Sylvia, Angela, Robyn, Laura, and Mike.

Status and Responsibilities of FSC (Exploration of FOI): Terry C

Karen invited a state agency person, a network person, the other co-chair & staff to join her at a meeting with the FOI Commission. Terry C was able to attend with Karen. Terry C. reported on information shared by the FOI Commission.

Terry shared and discussed the Highlights of the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act.

For the purposes of this statute the council is a “public agency” and we therefore fall under the requirements of this act.

Suggested that the new information & operations committee clarify the public records for which the council is the “keeper of the public record”.

For copies of this document please contact Chris Sloss or go to:

http://www.state.ct.us/foi/FOIC_Highlights/English/FOIC_HighLightsEng.htm

For example, the kinds of public records the council is responsible for are:

- the agendas
- the minutes
- Council reports
- Grant from the DD Council.

Mileage Reimbursement : Terry C

Terry checked into DDS reimbursement for mileage for Council members.

If funds are available, DDS will reimburse appointed parent members not otherwise reimbursed to attend the meetings. Three forms are required to be completed. See Chris S for copies of the forms. Question of whether also need to show license & insurance coverage. The current reimbursement rate is .585 cents per mile.

Vote re: SDE Document: Before, During & After the PPT: Karen and Colleen

Continuation of discussion regarding Mike's concerns about the language in this document, specifically the use of the word "chair" in the context of planning for PPT meetings.

Mike moved to remove this document from the FSC website. No one seconded the motion. Motion did not move forward. The council does not want to proceed with this as a formal request. Council preference is to work with Colleen on this. She expressed her willingness to take Mike's request back to the parent workgroup that created the document and report back on their position. Mike expressed his objection to the document link as a resource on the FSC website.

Legislative Meet & Greet: Karen & Molly

Application has been submitted to hold event at LOB for Feb 4 or 5.

Committee decided to focus on how budget cuts will impact families. Discussion continued on the catastrophic relief bill Need to gather stories (need 1 from each subcommittee) to support families' issues.

Suggested that we push date to March or consider not having a meet and greet this year. Tabled for further discussion.

Annual Report: Tabled to next month

Subcommittee updates: Will table to next month

Adjournment of meeting - Motion to adjourn the meeting by Sylvia
Second by Robin, motion passed.